

GRANDE PRAIRIE

AND THE

PEACE RIVER
DISTRICT



1920

ISSUED BY
GRANDE PRAIRIE BOARD OF TRADE

GRANDE PRAIRIE BOARD OF TRADE *and* CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Incorporated by the Dominion Government under
The Board of Trade Act, as representative of the
entire Grande Prairie Land District



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- J. E. Thomson, President (Thomson Hardware, Ltd.).
- A. W. Pentland, Vice-President (Mgr. G.P. Branch
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- C. L. Grisdale, Chairman Finance Committee (Mgr.
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Issued under the direction of the Board by the Secretary
who will be pleased to furnish further or more
detailed information on request.



J. FITZALLEN, *Secretary-Treasurer,*

BOX 48

GRANDE PRAIRIE

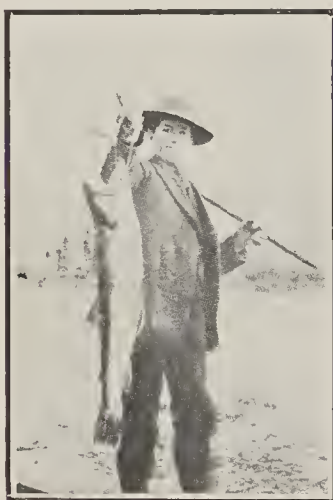
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ALBERTA

GRANDE PRAIRIE
AND THE
PEACE RIVER
DISTRICT .

1920



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On the Beaverlodge River, 25 Miles
West of Grande Prairie City

GRANDE PRAIRIE and THE PEACE RIVER DISTRICT

THE Grande Prairie Land District is that section of the famous "Peace River Country" lying south of the Peace River and extending from R. 20, W. 5th Mer. to the Rocky Mountains, including that portion of British Columbia called "The Peace River Block" the whole of which is usually referred to as "Pouce Coupe." The north line of Tp. 66 might be termed the southern boundary of the district. Grande Prairie contains the bulk of the population of the entire North Country, and has reached a stage of development, in the few short years of settlement, that only goes to emphasize the progressive type of its pioneers as well as the unequalled agricultural and other resources of the country.

ITS RESOURCES

First and foremost of these comes agriculture. On this, alone, its present prosperity is founded. Other resources, however, such as timber, coal and mineral, together with tremendous water power, are all to play their part in the future of Grande Prairie. Although, as the name implies, it is decidedly a prairie country, there are tributary to it several of the greatest tracts of merchantable



Farmers Digging Coal for Domestic Use, Grande Prairie

timber to be found in Alberta. These are located in the unsettled portions of the district to the south of the Wapiti River and on both sides of the Big Smoky south of its junction with the Simonette and the Wapiti. These immense tracts, coupled with patches containing millions of feet of timber to be found in the outlying districts both to the east and west of the prairie section, augmented by the smaller patches with which the prairie itself is dotted at frequent intervals, are bound to make the lumbering industry one of the great factors in the development yet to come. This great asset is as yet practically untouched. It might be mentioned, however, that the rivers along which the timber berths are located, flow from both the east and west into the Big Smoky, in the very heart of the Prairie. By river driving, the marketing of this product will be

simplified and the centralization of the lumbering industry in the heart of the Prairie assured. Of coal there is an inexhaustible supply. The only deposit so far to be mined is one some 25 miles to the west of Grande Prairie City. The larger fields, however, are located to the south and west of the Grande Prairie Country and are considered among the most important of the whole world, surpassing, by assay, the Pennsylvania, and rivalling the Welsh coals. The years of financial stringency have delayed the development of this great asset, but financiers of world-wide reputation are again indicating their interest in these immense coal beds, and that development along these lines is to make Grande Prairie a bee hive of industry cannot be doubted.

Gold.—Placer gold in paying quantities occurs in the sands of the mountain rivers traversing the prairie and gives rise to the belief that the headwaters of these streams will eventually disclose great wealth in this form.

Mica.—Large deposits of mica, copper and other minerals are known to exist in the foothills. Strong indications of oil may be seen in numerous localities. Clays suitable for the manufacture of first-class brick and kindred products exist in large deposits and are of easy access. The demand is tremendous and this industry offers a splendid opportunity. Excellent gravel and sand is to be found along the rivers. Valuable sandstone in an unlimited quantity is to be found along the Big Smoky.

CLIMATE



Sunset at 11 P.M. One of the Secrets of the Remarkable Growth Peculiar to the Peace River Country

By reason of its westerly location the Grande Prairie district is, in regard to climatic conditions, possibly more favorably situated than any other part of the great north-west. What would otherwise doubtless be a severe winter climate, is tempered by the prevalence of the warm winds from the coast. The storms and blizzards of the central west are unknown and although at times the temperature becomes severe, such spells are invariably of but short duration, and are broken by long spells of beautiful, invigorating, clear sunny days. Taken altogether the winter season is much preferable to that of either the north-

western States or the prairie Provinces and is, with its numerous sports, such as skating, ski-ing, curling, hockey, tobogganing and sleigh-riding, with a little moose or bear hunt now and then thrown in, a season not only healthful but thoroughly enjoyable.

The other three seasons cannot be surpassed in any part of the world. The days are warm without being extremely hot, and the nights are invariably cool. The oppressive sultry heat of the east is never experienced.

POPULATION

The population of the district is estimated at from twenty-five to thirty thousand, consisting almost entirely of English-speaking people. The high type of its settlers is something that always excites the comment of visitors.



The Home of Henry Roberts, Ten Miles West of Grande Prairie City, who in Twelve Years' Experience in Grande Prairie has never had a Crop Failure. Mr. Roberts Ships Annually in the Neighbourhood of 15,000 Bushels of Wheat Usually Grading No. 1 Northern.

ALTITUDE

The plateau elevation is 2,300 feet.

In speaking of the Grande Prairie District one does not usually realize that a territory containing over 20,000 square miles is referred to. Immigration to the district has been so heavy ever since settlement first commenced that it is now necessary for the prospective homesteader to go distances of from thirty to sixty miles from the railway terminus at Grande Prairie City to locate on free land. However, by latest reports, there still remains 1,328,000 acres of suitable agricultural land already surveyed and available for homestead entry. This land is mostly situate on the east side of the Big Smoky River, both to the north and south of the Simonette, extending in an easterly direction to the eastern boundary of the district. The settlement of this eastern section is progressing very rapidly at the present time. The Grande Prairie branch of the Canadian National will pass through it, and nothing will then be lacking to make it the same type of thriving community as the portion of the district lying to the west of the Big Smoky.

Detailed information as to lands available for homestead entry may be had by writing F. L. Christie, Agent Dominion Lands, Grande Prairie.

During the year 1919 there were 856 homestead entries and 587 soldiers' grants filed in the Dominion Land office at Grande Prairie City alone. In addition to the unsurveyed lands mentioned above, there remains 5,000 surveyed



Scene Fifteen Miles East of Grande Prairie City

quarter sections in the district available for entry at the present time, as well as lands available for grazing lease, timber berths, etc., etc. There are no Hudson's Bay or railway reserves in the Grande Prairie district.

EDUCATION

The same high standard of public school education for which Alberta is noted prevails in the Grande Prairie district, and schools are located at close intervals throughout the length and breadth of the entire settled portion of the district. Grande Prairie City boasts of one of the most completely and modernly equipped high schools in the province, and in this institution the farmers' sons and daughters may receive, without charge, instruction in all the higher subjects usually included in the high school curriculum.



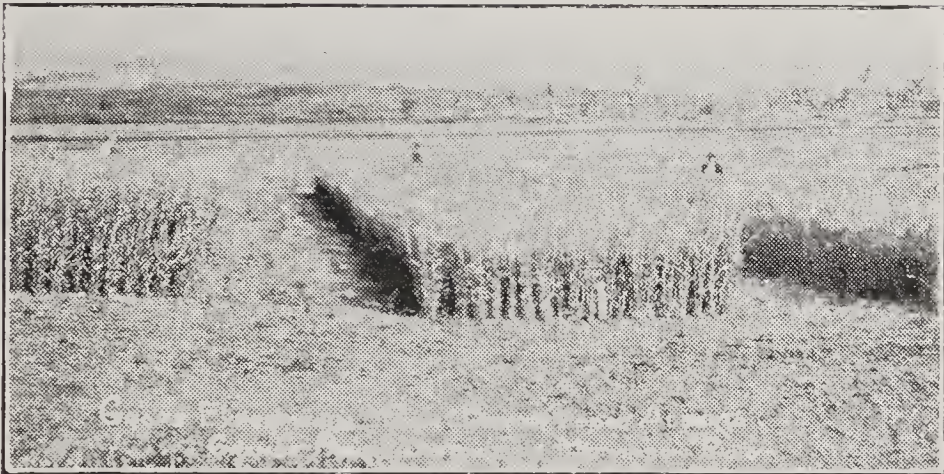
A Typical Grande Prairie Farm Scene

FARMING

As a farming community the Grande Prairie district has long since emerged from the experimental stage. Grain growing is the predominating industry. The country is also particularly well suited to dairying and mixed farming and both of the latter are engaged in with unvarying success, and the certainty of bountiful rewards. The natural growth of grasses and pea-vine in the outlying districts is phenomenal, and stock-raising has proven one of the great sources of wealth of the community.

The soil although varying in different localities, is generally a rich black loam averaging about 20 inches in depth with a clay sub-soil.

Seeding usually commences about the middle of April and the exceptionally long hours of sunshine, coupled with the unfailing abundance of rain, advance the crops at a rate which is unbelievable, to one who has not witnessed it. During the summer months there are from 16 to 20 hours of sunshine daily. Owing to the long hours of twilight during the winter months the days are not correspondingly short. Daylight prevails in the winter months about the same number of hours as in Eastern Canada or the Central States.



Scene at the Grande Prairie Experimental Farm Operated by the Dominion Government
Under the Able Supervision of Mr. W. D. Allbright

In the year 1920 the most backward spring ever known in the district was experienced. When the frost had gone, a period of almost incessant rain set in, delaying seeding operations till the middle of May. The middle of August however witnessed the farmers of the district harvesting one of the most bountiful grain crops in the history of the country. Captain R. B. Howell commenced cutting a forty acre field of wheat sown on the 25th of May on August the 10th when it was fully matured and graded No. 1 Northern, averaging 45 bushels to the acre, the actual growing period having been but seventy-seven days.

AVERAGE CROPS

The "Peace River Guide," an Edmonton publication, devoted to the publication of statistics of the production and resources of the Province of Alberta, estimates, with the approval of the Commissioner of Publicity of the Provincial Government, the ordinary crop of the Peace River country as averaging to the acre, oats, 60 bushels; wheat, 40 bushels; barley, 45 bushels; potatoes, 400 bushels. As to the quality of the grain produced, suffice it to say that the prize winning wheat of the Chicago World's Fair was raised in the Peace River country.



Farm of Jas. McFarlane, Cut Bank Lake, Grande Prairie

A total crop failure has never been experienced in any section of the Peace River country, and damage from drought, wind or hail is practically unknown. Vegetables grown consist principally of carrots, beets, onions, celery, cabbage, garden peas, beans, tomatoes, lettuce, radish, turnips, pumpkins and squash.

THE 1919 CROP

In the year 1919 there was in that part of the Peace River district tributary to Grande Prairie City, approximately 125,000 acres in crop. About 10 per cent. consisted of green feed, 10 per cent. of barley, rye and flax, 33 per cent. of wheat and about 47 per cent. of oats. There would be approximately 800,000 bushels of wheat and 2,400,000 bushels of oats to be threshed.

After allowing for the requirements of the district for seed, feed and domestic use there would be about 600,000 bushels of wheat and 1,200,000 bushels of oats offered for shipment. To illustrate the volume of this production, it might be mentioned that, allowing 1,000 bushels of wheat and 1,800 bushels of oats to the car, and 12 cars per train, one train per day, for 105 days, would be required to move the crop.

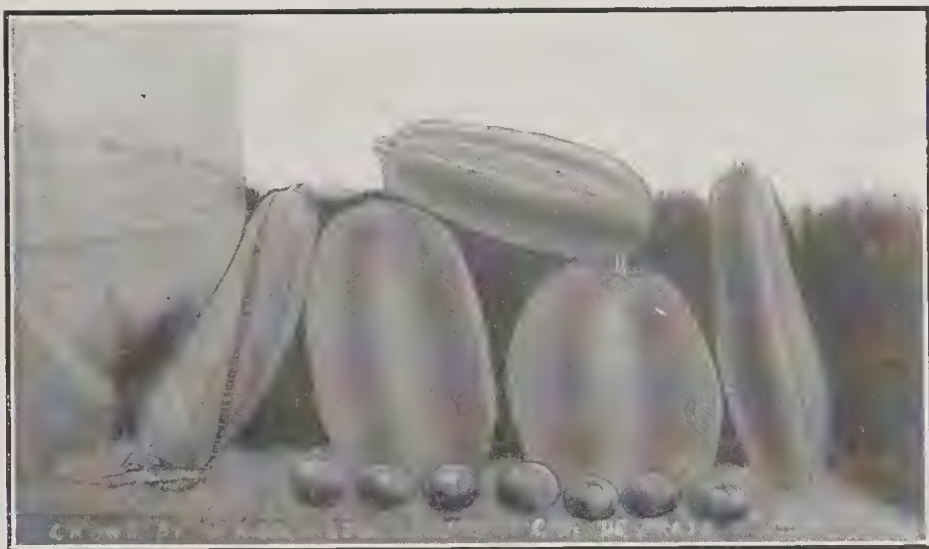


Home of Mrs. Mary Thompson, Grande Prairie

(The foregoing figures were extracted from an estimate included in an address delivered to the Board of Trade at its regular monthly luncheon in the Grande Prairie hotel on September 11th, 1919, by Mr. W. F. Stevens, representative of the Department of Agriculture for the Peace River District, and a recognized authority on agriculture.)

SMALL FRUITS

The growing of small fruits such as red, white and black currants, raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, etc., is most successful, while wild berries of a dozen different varieties are to be found in great profusion throughout the entire length and breadth of the whole district.



Grown 4 miles out of Grande Prairie City

ORNAMENTALS

At the experimental farm conducted by Mr. W. D. Allbright at Beaverlodge, many ornamental plants are to be found thriving, notably Manitoba maples, caraganas, Chinese lilacs and spiraeas. White spruce was successfully transplanted last season and wild honeysuckle is being propagated satisfactorily while Tartarian honeysuckle, high-bush cranberry and some other species are growing successfully.

Of flowers, the sweet-pea and pansy are particularly successful, though Iceland and Oriental poppies, columbines, larkspurs and many others are growing in abundance.

GRANDE PRAIRIE FARM LANDS AS AN INVESTMENT

Improved farm lands within a radius of thirty miles of Grande Prairie City may be purchased at prices ranging from \$15 to \$40 per acre and that the settler, where funds permit, finds it to his advantage to purchase an improved farm within easy access of the railway, instead of going farther back to homestead, cannot be disputed. Having in mind, however, the extremely high prices of farm lands prevailing in the older and in most instances certainly less productive districts, one is forced to the conclusion that as a safe and sane investment Grande Prairie farm lands are in the front rank. The tendency of prices is bound to be ever upwards until the level of prevailing prices elsewhere has been reached.



Lake Saskatoon

CATTLE AND SHEEP IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

(Contributed by W. F. Stevens, Esq., Ex-Livestock Commissioner, and now Secretary Cattleman's Protective Association. Calgary)

The Grande Prairie district is especially adapted to three lines of livestock production, namely: wool, and mutton, beef and butter. Throughout all of the country along the north and west side of the district, the native and cultivated grasses grow luxuriantly and such grains as winter rye, oats and barley yield heavy crops of grain and roughage. In short, the feeds that are essential to successful dairying yield abundantly, thereby contributing greatly to the cheapness of production. There is an up-to-date creamery, a branch of the Edmonton City Dairy, in Grande Prairie, City and cream gathering stations at Rio Grande, Beaver Lodge, Hythe and Valhalla, thus affording a convenient and regular market for the settlers' products. The dairy industry is increasing rapidly throughout the districts named, the butter output for 1919 being slightly more than twice as great as that of 1918, while the sale of ice cream during last year was ten times as great as that of the year previous. The settler who has a fair knowledge of dairying, who owns from six to a dozen good milch cows who provides a field of winter rye for late fall and early spring pasture and has the



Portion of a Choice Herd of Pure Bred Herefords Owned by Webber, La Glace P.O., Grande Prairie



Sheep in the North

native grasses for summer forage, and rye hay, oat straw and oat sheaves for winter fodder, need have no misgivings about the future in any part of the districts referred to.

Grande Prairie grass cattle of good breeding are highly prized on the Edmonton market, and in every shipment made from there in the fall of 1919, there were from two to ten cattle that were selected for the Toronto or Chicago market and they commanded a premium of from 1c. to 2c. per pound over the top quotations for the run of cattle for the day on which they arrived. A prominent Edmonton stock buyer said to the writer some two years ago: "We look upon Grande Prairie and Peace River cattle as equal to the best and superior to most of the cattle that come from any part of the province north of Calgary."

The Grande Prairie district offers excellent opportunities to the man who understands the sheep industry whether as a ranching proposition or in connection with grain growing. The high and rugged river banks afford pasturage for a range herd equal to the best in Alberta. The writer had the honor of judging three years in succession the dressed carcasses entered in the fat stock show



The First Herd in the Grande Prairie District, the Neclus of a Herd Brought in Over the Trail in 1910 by W. H. Smith & Sons. The Owners During the Past Two Years Have Been Heavy Shippers to the Edmonton Market, Where Their Stock Commands Especial Comment.

in Calgary and does not hesitate to say that he saw in Grande Prairie grass-fed lamb carcasses that had been grown on the north bank of the Wapiti River the equal to the best he had judged at any of these shows.

But it is in connection with grain, especially wheat growing, on the lighter drier soils and timothy growing on the heavy moist soils, that the Grande Prairie district offers the greatest opportunities for permanent development in wool and mutton production. Some knowledge of the nature of sheep, some system for giving opportunity for moving from the summer fallow to the prairie and back at will and some capital to provide proper protection against their natural enemies, namely, dogs and coyotes, are necessary. But these provided and with a flock of sheep of good breeding and suitable size, the Grande Prairie grain grower need have no anxiety regarding the weed problem or of the problem of soil drifting. Like the dairyman, he will find a field of winter rye a valuable asset in that it will shorten up his period of dry feeding and reduce the danger of loss from indigestion; his ewes will have a good supply of milk at lambing time and danger of losses from insufficient nourishment will be practically eliminated. By pasturing his meadows with a flock of sheep, during autumn, winter and spring, the timothy grower will be able to overcome the timothy man's greatest trouble, namely: that of his meadow becoming sod-bound and on the heavy moist soils of the district, secure good crops of hay or seed indefinitely. Properly handled, a flock of sheep will increase the yield of grain, hay or grass seed besides yield large returns from the sale of wool and mutton.

TRANSPORTATION

Settlement of the Grande Prairie District commenced some ten years before it was provided with railway facilities. Enduring the hardships of a two hundred and fifty mile journey over a winding "trail" through a country of bottomless muskegs and swamp, some ten thousand settlers were located in the district when the steel of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway arrived in the year 1916. Constructed and operated during the war, the service rendered, although facilitating the marketing of the immense annual crops and promoting the settlement and development of the northern country to a very great extent, left much to be desired. On June 20th, 1920, however, a new era in the life of the north was entered, when it was officially announced that the operation of this road had been taken over by that greatest and wealthiest of all transportation companies—

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

What this means to the future of the north cannot be over-estimated. Quick to act, the new management had within a few days of the announcement placed ample equipment along the line to put the road-bed into a condition in a minimum space of time, to permit of the rendering of the service for which this corporation is justly famous. At the time of going to press, the work of re-ballasting and making other improvements is being rushed with all possible speed, and unquestionably by September of the present year (1920) passengers will be enabled to make the trip from Edmonton without experiencing any of the inconveniences or delays which have unfortunately been frequent in the past.

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY

The Dominion Government is carrying on construction on the Grande Prairie branch of the Canadian National Railway, at the present time the end of steel being but 150 miles from Grande Prairie City. The entry of this great transcontinental system will also mean much in the future development of Grande Prairie more particularly as it is ultimately to provide transportation through to the Pacific Coast.

THE PACIFIC AND GREAT EASTERN

This system under construction by the Government of the Province of British Columbia is destined to tap Grande Prairie from the west, thus placing it, by reason of a short mountain haul to the Pacific ports, in a most advantageous position in regard to world markets.



A Morning's Shoot at Bear Lake

"ROD AND GUN"

A Hunter's Paradise

GRANDE PRAIRIE has been truly described as "A Hunter's Paradise." Ducks, geese and prairie chicken are extremely numerous and a few minutes ride out of Grande Prairie City will ensure the sportsman a "bag." The vicinities of the Wapiti and Big Smokey Rivers abound with bigger game, such as bear, moose, and deer, and can be classed as possibly the best hunting grounds to be found on the continent. Such fur bearing animals as black, silver, cross and yellow foxes, marten, mink, otter, muskrat, ermine, fisher, etc., abound in the less thickly settled portions of the district. Consequently trapping is engaged in extensively not only by the native Indians but by the homesteaders in the more remote areas. Numerous and very valuable catches are marketed each spring in Grande Prairie City.

Angling

The many rivers, streams and lakes are well stocked with such fish as the Dolly Varden and mountain trout, grayling, white-fish, pickerel, ling, etc. Some varieties running as high as twenty pounds in weight and providing all the thrills so dear to the angler's heart as well as a most delicious food. It is a common sight to see the sportsman returning to the city with his car laden with anywhere from fifteen to fifty splendid specimens caught with the rod and line in but an hour or so. The beautiful Bear Lake, but one of a number only a few minutes' ride from Grande Prairie City, is one of the most attractive spots for sportsmen. Affording also unsurpassed facilities for boating, yachting and bathing, it is proving to be a most popular summer resort. Concerts are given weekly by the Grande Prairie Community Band, and dancing takes place nightly in the spacious pavilion on the lake shore.

To the seeker of a real enjoyable, health-giving holiday, few countries have such attractions to offer. River trips, excelling in scenic grandeur that of the Thousand Isles, lakes, to the sportsman, surpassing those of the famous Muskoka District, and forests abounding with game, are jointly destined to make the Peace River District the mecca of a great tourist traffic in the years to come.



GRANDE PRAIRIE CITY

IT was of course to be expected that a great country, blessed with such exceptional resources as the Grande Prairie District, would produce a commercial centre of a considerable size and importance. Any doubt as to the location of this great industrial centre has gradually but surely disappeared. But a hamlet of approximately fifty souls in the year 1914, the town experienced a continuous and exceptionally rapid growth all through the war until today with a population of over 2,500, it is recognized as the largest town north of Edmonton, and one of the busiest centres in the



Kathryn Prettie Hospital. Large Additions Have Since Been Made and an X-Ray Added to the Equipment

province. During the year 1919 its population more than doubled, a performance that is to say the least, unique in the history of western towns. Grande Prairie today compares favorably with the city of Edmonton as it was in 1905 and in its present stage it offers the same golden opportunities that were offered by that city and turned to such good advantage by the early residents.

Located on the Bear River, but four miles from the junction with the mighty Wapiti, it is the terminal point of the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway (lately acquired by the C.P.R.) and is on the projected line of the Canadian National System. It is so geographically situated as to command the trade of the entire district and the commercial and social life of this great territory is centralized at this point.

Until the year 1918 it had but one bank, i.e., the Union Bank of Canada. Since that year, noting the trend of events in the north, four others have been opened, namely: the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Merchants Bank of Canada, the Imperial Bank of Canada and the Royal Bank of Canada. One of the other great Canadian banks has recently been negotiating for a site. The entry of these large institutions in the past year is a reliable indication of the city's future. It has already become of importance as a wholesale centre. Two large wholesale warehouses were erected during the past year. Its many large retail concerns would be a credit to any of the older centres in the province. Flour milling is one of its growing industries. The Imperial Oil Co. has made this its northern centre and has lately acquired more property, and is about to



Third Avenue South—1916

install additional storage tanks and warehouses, including a power plant in order to accommodate the ever-increasing business of this vast territory.

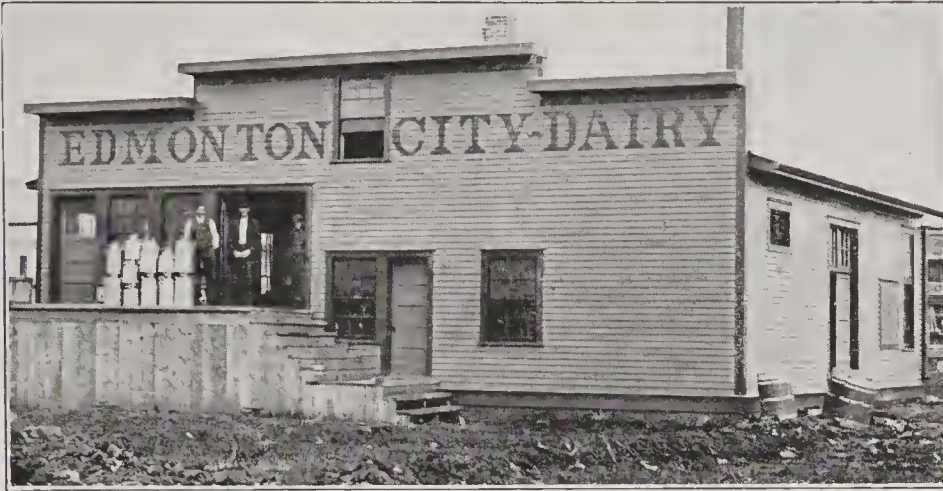
In the year 1919 there were one hundred and twenty-four buildings erected in the city at an estimated cost of over four hundred thousand dollars and in the first five months of the current year, there was forty-nine, at an estimated cost of over one hundred thousand dollars.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TAXATION

Although but in its infancy Grande Prairie has made progress in the way of the installation of modern conveniences and improvements, which would almost belie the fact that the indebtedness of the corporation is almost negligible, by reason of which the annual tax levy is entirely controllable by the Council for the time being. This condition is due to the fact that until recently the money markets of the world were not in a condition to encourage promiscuous borrowings, the result being that a large portion of Grande Prairie's capital expenditures have been made from current revenue. This has, of course, necessitated the placing of an undue proportion of the cost of permanent improvements on the ratepayers of the two years just past. The result, however, is that the hamlet



Third Avenue South—1919



Grande Prairie City Branch

of yesterday and the town of today faces its future as one of the great cities of the west with almost an entirely clean sheet.

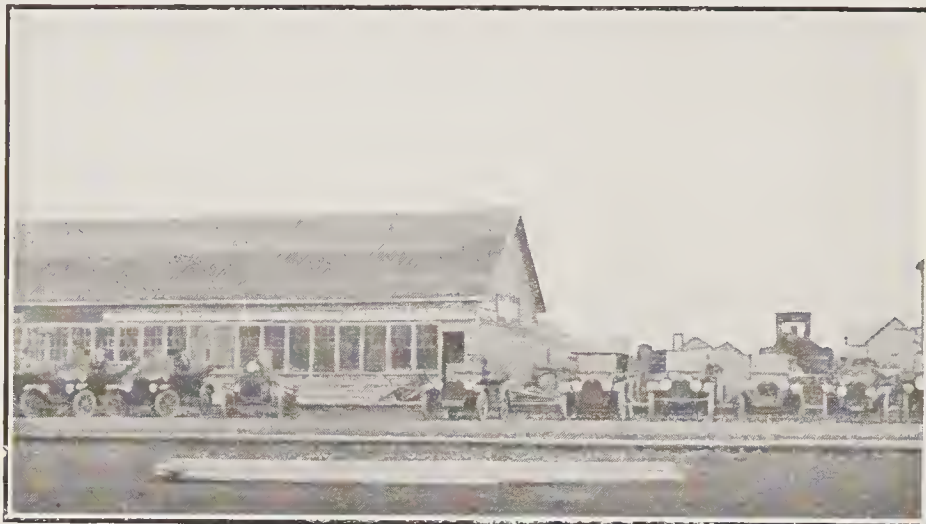
Grande Prairie has splendid streets and pretty drives. It boasts of educational facilities second to none. Its high school is furnished with the most modern equipment and apparatus obtainable. No expense is spared to ensure the best instruction available in all grades and departments. It has a hospital, recently enlarged and modernly equipped, supplied with the only X-Ray outfit north of Edmonton.

The waterworks system, installed in the year 1917, is efficient and is capable of extension to meet all demands, from time to time, as the growth of the city warrants. The same may be said of the electric light plant. Installed to meet immediate demands, but consisting of the best equipment procurable, the whole plant was selected and installed with a view to fitting in advantageously in the greater system required in the years to come.

The local and long distance telephone system operated by the North-West Telephone Co., with head offices in Grande Prairie, renders a splendid local service as well as rural, the latter being in process of extension at the present time.



A Section of "The Boulevard," Grande Prairie City



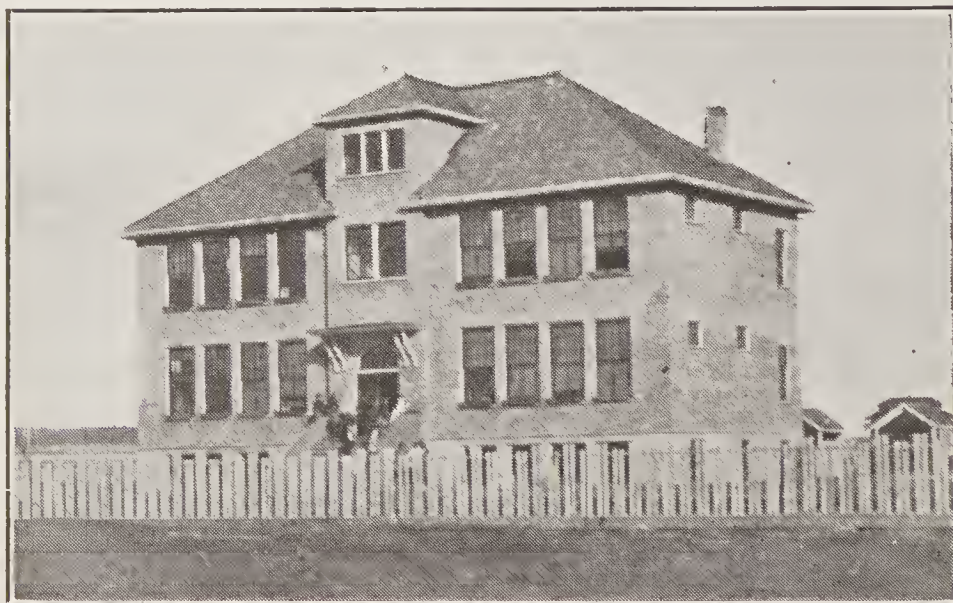
Section of First Street East

PUBLIC MARKET PLACE

In the spring of the year 1920 a public market place was established by the City Council and is proving of mutual benefit to both farmers and townspeople and gives promise of developing into a large and permanent institution.

FIRE PROTECTION

Grande Prairie has an up-to-date fire department. Ample water pressure delivered through hydrants located at close intervals throughout the business section enables a number of hose lines to be played on any one fire. The brigade whose efficiency has been repeatedly proved, consists of sixteen men (ten of whom are provided with sleeping quarters in the fire hall), under the direction of an old experienced and able chief. A new fire hall, 50 ft. x 60 ft. is under construction.



A Grande Prairie School

AMUSEMENTS

A description of a few of the natural available resorts and play-grounds is given elsewhere in this booklet, of the indoor attractions, motion pictures, amateur theatricals, bowling, skating and hockey all have their place. A covered skating rink erected last year is proving most popular. It is one of the largest in the province.

The two illustrations on page 16 will convey some idea of the transformation that has been taking place during the past three years in what is now Grande Prairie City. With the immense influx that is taking place into the Peace River Country, and under world-wide conditions so much more favorable than during the term just passed, who can foresee the growth this young city will attain during the coming years?

Its present status has been attained under the most adverse conditions in history and has been the result of the partial development of the agricultural resources of the district. One should bear in mind, however, that this agricultural development has but only commenced, and that the other great resources referred to elsewhere in this booklet have not yet been even touched.



Snapped in the Vicinity of the Wapiti, South and West of Grande Prairie

MUSICAL

As a musical centre, Grande Prairie is decidedly to the fore. Availing itself of the kind services of one of the most able and gifted musicians of the west, considerable talent of a very high order has been developed. The weekly concerts of the "Community Choir" as well as the "Community Orchestra" prove a treat to the most perfectly trained ear. The Grande Prairie Brass Band is a credit to the north.

SPORTS

Baseball, football and tennis all have ardent "fans" and really good exhibitions are the rule. Horse-racing, carried on under the auspices of the Grande Prairie Trotting Association, is also most popular.

RELIGIOUS

The spiritual requirements of the city are adequately catered to by the Anglican, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches. The latter denomination has under construction a new and handsome edifice at the time of going to press.





G.W.V. Picnic, Bear Lake, Grande Prairie

CITY PROPERTY

Considerable activity in city property has lately been in evidence. Business lots are changing hands at prices ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,500 for inside lots to \$5,000 for corners. Residential lots vary in price from \$50 to \$400, depending on location. There has been absolutely no wild-catting in Grande Prairie. None of the sub-divided properties are more than one half mile removed from the business centre, and at prevailing prices they are bound to prove to be a most safe and profitable investment.

MAIL STAGE SERVICE, ETC.

Good roads radiate in all directions so to speak from Grande Prairie City leading as far as Calais Post Office (Sturgeon Lake), some forty-five miles to the east, and as far as Pouce Coupe, seventy miles to the west. All mail for the many scattered Post Offices of the district being re-sorted at Grande Prairie, mail and passenger stage service is maintained. Auto livery and truck service is also available to all points, as is telephone and telegraph service through the more thickly populated regions.

Previous publications got out by this Board have contained a detailed list of all industries and professions represented, but owing to the rapidity of the growth of the town this is no longer practicable.



At the Grande Prairie Exhibition

MERCHANDISING IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

By reason of the immense stocks carried and large annual turn-overs, the merchants of Grande Prairie City are in a position to supply everything in the line of farm implements, machinery, gasoline tractors, furniture, household effects, and general merchandise at prices comparing most favorably with those prevailing in the larger cities outside.

Several of the large firms of livestock dealers known throughout the west, conduct sales of pure bred horses and cattle daily in the city, and by reason of special shipping arrangements are enabled to offer high class stock at attractive prices.

COST OF STAPLE ARTICLES IN GRANDE PRAIRIE CITY APRIL, 1920

Implements

Wagons, complete.....	\$175.00 up
Walking plow.....	32.50
Three-section harrows.....	26.00
Disc harrow.....	75.00
Sulky plow.....	116.00
Mower.....	102.00
Rake.....	66.00
Binders: 7-foot, \$312.00; 8-foot.....	320.00
Truck.....	15.00

Building Material

Nails, per 100 lbs.....	9.00
Building paper, \$1.25 to.....	2.25
Tar paper, \$2.00 to.....	2.50
Rubberoid.....	5.00
Shingles, cedar, per M.....	11.00
Shiplap, spruce, per M.....	50.00
Barb wire, 4-pt.....	7.75

Groceries

Flour, per 100 lbs.....	7.00
Salt, per 100 lbs.....	3.00
Tea, per lb.....	.75
Coffee, per lb.....	.75
Beans.....	.12
Rice.....	.18
Lard.....	.45
Smoked Bacon.....	.70
Dry Salt.....	.40
Cheese.....	.40

Clothing

Overalls, per pair.....	3.00
Work shoes, from.....	6.00 up

A few of the larger public institutions, organizations and corporations are mentioned below. Information as to any trade, business, profession or industry will be gladly furnished by the Secretary.

BANKING INSTITUTIONS

Union Bank of Canada, Merchants Bank of Canada, Imperial Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Bank of Commerce.

PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS

Grande Prairie Herald, Limited

GRAIN ELEVATORS

Alberta Pacific Grain Co., Gillespie Elevator Co., United Grain Growers, Ltd.

FLOUR MILLS

Ploughman & Atkinson

LUMBER COMPANIES

Frontier Lumber Co., Ltd., Buffalo Lakes Lumber Co., Ltd., Ford Lumber Co., Ltd.

GENERAL WHOLESALE HOUSES

Revillon Freres Wholesale, Ltd., W. C. Pratt Wholesale, Kelly-Douglas Co., Crummy Bros. Wholesale, Ltd.

PLANING MILLS

H. R. Walker Sash and Door Factory

THEATRES

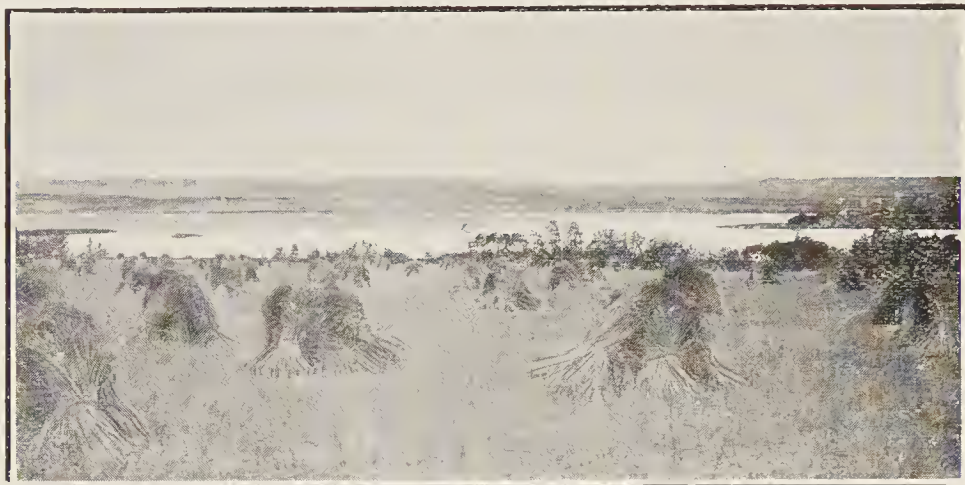
Grande Theatre

GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Dominion Government Land Offices, Crown Timber Inspector's Office, Dominion Government Redistributing Post Office, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks, Alberta Provincial Police Barracks, Alberta Provincial Government Dept. of Agriculture (headquarters for District), District Court Offices and Registry Office for the Judicial District of Grande Prairie, Dominion Government Telegraphs, Public Health Nursing Station, Soldier Settlement Board.

FRATERNAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Great War Veterans' Association, Grande Prairie Lodge No. 105 A.F. & A.M., Grande Prairie Lodge No. 135 I.O.O.F., Grande Prairie Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce, Community Club, Canadian Club, G. P. Trotting Association, G. P. Agricultural Association, G. P. Annual Sports Association, G. P. Baseball Association, G. P. Tennis Association, Grande Prairie Club, Ltd., Grande Prairie Curling Association, Grande Prairie Chess Club, Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, Red Cross Association, Salvation Army Detachment.



Hermit Lake, Grande Prairie



100-Foot Fall on the Porcupine, South of Grande Prairie City



Annual Exhibition at Grande Prairie City

Supplement to THE GRANDE PRAIRIE BOOKLET

Giving Correct Data Regarding The Pouce Coupe Oil Fields

(Issued by the Grande Prairie Board of Trade & Chamber of Commerce)

Since the date of Publication of this booklet, considerable interest has been manifested by the large oil interests, in the Pouce Coupe section of the Grande Prairie district. In the months of December, 1920 and January, 1921, approximately two hundred thousand acres were covered by oil leases. Of this amount seventy thousand acres were filed on by the Imperial Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Standard. A number of drilling outfits are being taken in to the field and it is expected that drilling operations will be under way in the course of the next sixty days. This activity has received considerable publicity, with the result that many inquiries are being received from various parts of the world. It is obviously impossible to answer each inquiry by a personal letter, but the following information, which is all that is available just at the present time, is cordially extended to any who may be interested in this phase of the development of the Grande Prairie district.

The filings of the Imperial Oil Company cover a strip of territory averaging from three to four miles in width, along the Pouce Coupe river for a distance of approximately fourteen miles. Geographically, the leases may be described as in Townships 79, 80, 81 and 82, in Ranges 12, 13 and 14, west of the 6th Meridian. Filings since made by other syndicates and individuals have been to the north, south, east and west of the Imperial holdings, and in the immediate vicinity. This region has been under the observation of geologists for the past fifteen years. Favorable reports have been made periodically during this period. Three years ago the waters of the Pouce Coupe river (which are flanked by cutbanks of from four to eight hundred feet in height) became abnormally low, and heavy seepages of oil became apparent, below what was the normal

water line. The discovery was reported at the time to the Imperial Oil Co., but on the arrival of a representative of that Corporation, the waters had again reached a normal level, and the seepages were hidden from view. Not again till the Fall of the year 1920, did the waters recede sufficiently to disclose them. The original discoverers again reported to the Imperial Oil Co. forwarding samples of the oil, with the result that experts were again dispatched to the ground and heavy filings immediately made. Geologists declare the field bears remarkable similarity to the famous Caspar field. The formation exposed along the banks of the Pouce Coupe river is said to be identical with that encountered at Caspar, Wyoming, the general topography of the country also bearing a close resemblance. The field forms, what might be called a bay in the eastern slope of the Rockies. Years before the actual discovery was made, the district was under observation owing to the prevalent theory that the whole mountain range had in some prehistoric time been an oil field. It being assumed that the eruption that caused the formation of the mountains had destroyed the great oil basin, the natural sequence of the theory was that any undisturbed indent or bay, as it were, in the mountainous region, was worthy of close investigation. The soundness of this theory was proved in the Caspar field. As previously stated, reports submitted by geologists from time to time over a period of years have been unanimously favorable and the conclusions arrived at were fully confirmed by the recent discoveries. The extent of the field is of course not known, favorable indications however, exist as far East as Grande Prairie city and South from Township 82 to 78.

It is understood that the drilling operations of the Imperial Oil Com-

pany will be under the personal direction of the discoverer of the famous Fort Norman gusher. The fact that this Company has seen fit to take up more than three times the acreage in the Pouce Coupe field that they have in the Fort Norman field is significant.

Applications for oil leases are not accepted at sub-agencies of the Dominion Lands Office. Entries must be made personally at the head offices at Grande Prairie City.

The site of the Imperial Oil Company's holdings is reached by auto

from Grande Prairie City in from five to seven hours. This is the only route open at all seasons of the year.

It is not the desire of the Board of Trade to assist or participate in the creation of any artificial "boom" as a result of the oil discoveries. Conservative bulletins will be issued from time to time as the situation develops. Copies will be forwarded on request.

J. FITZALLEN, Secretary,

Grande Prairie Board of Trade and
Chamber of Commerce

The Whole of Canada and the United States Are Looking Towards

The POUCE COUPE OIL FIELDS

The one and only way to get reliable information regarding these new oil fields, is to Read the LOCAL PAPER. The "Grande Prairie Herald" published at Grande Prairie where the Leases are obtained, keeps its readers fully informed as to what is going on in the Oil District.

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Grande Prairie, Alberta


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THE Province of Alberta offers good opportunities for the settler and investor in homestead lands, moderate priced improved lands, in oil, coal, timber and fish.

Its agriculture includes grain farming, irrigation farming, mixed farming, dairying, pure-bred stock-raising, and sheep, horse and cattle ranching.

It has a good system of education, a Provincial Hospital service, good municipal organization and good telephone, highway and railroad services.



Write for Information



HON. DUNCAN MARSHALL, *Minister of Agriculture*

JAMES McCAIG, *Publicity Commissioner*

Edmonton, Alberta.

“GRANDE PRAIRIE”

*Flawless link of that far flung chain
Which has girdled the world with the passing years,
Your strength is the Gold of your ripening Grain---
“LA GRANDE PRAIRIE” of the pioneers.*

Harry W. Laughy